

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS HELD AT THE OFFICE OF
MCKIM, MEAD AND WHITE, 101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY,
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1920.

A Committee meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held at the office of McKim, Mead and White, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, Saturday, October 9, 1920.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Platt;
Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall;

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary in behalf of Major C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer, and Mr. Charles H. Niehaus, sculptor for the Key Memorial.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. KEY MEMORIAL AT BALTIMORE: Under date of October 2, 1920, Major Ridley forwarded to Mr. Niehaus a plan for the immediate area about the statue of the Key Memorial at Baltimore, Maryland, for his approval or such modifications as he considered desirable, particularly with reference to the treatment of the benches and walks. Mr. Niehaus submitted a sketch practically the same as that forwarded to him with the exception that he had arranged for placing busts (to cost at least \$2,500 each) between the benches, the purpose being to commemorate the heroic achievements of those who took an active part in the War of 1812. Mr. Niehaus said his desire was to obtain assistance in Baltimore from historical associations and patriotic societies in this matter. The Committee felt, however, that as there was no appropriation to cover this additional feature for placing busts between the benches, as suggested by Mr. Niehaus, they were without authority to act thereon.

The Committee thereupon approved the plan which had been sent to Mr.

Niehaus by Major Ridley with the following changes:

That the five foot grass plot between the walk and the road be omitted, and that the ten foot walk be moved to the road;

That the radius of curves on the roads to and from the Immigration Wharves be reduced to seven feet, and that on the proposed twenty-five foot road to the Fort the radius be shortened to eight feet;

That the Commission would be interested and expect to have presented to them a lighting scheme with plan for placing the lights and designs for the lamp posts;

That the hedge behind the seats is considered a vital element in the design. It is not shown on the plan. The Commission would like assurance that it is put in. The Commission agree to the use of the twelve foot seat.

Mr. Niehaus and the Baltimore City Plan Commission have been advised accordingly. (Exhibit A).

2. AMERICAN RED STAR ANIMAL RELIEF WAR MEMORIAL TABLET: Mr. Pope submitted a revised design referred to him by Lionel Moses, sculptor of the proposed tablet, which is to be placed in the State, War and Navy Building by the American Red Star Animal Relief Society. The Committee approved the design but felt that the moulding at the bottom and the general design of the tablet is such that calls for support on the wall and urged that the design be changed accordingly. The Committee also requested that a model of the tablet be submitted to the Commission. (Exhibit B).

3. VERDUN MEDAL: The War Department reported that so far two sculptors have accepted the invitation to take part in the competition for the Verdun Medal, namely, Mr. John Flanagan and Mr. Sherry Fry.

4. DARLINGTON FOUNTAIN: Mr. Moore reported that he had been advised of the desire to erect a fountain in Judiciary Park to commemorate the life of Mr. J. J.

Darlington, a prominent lawyer of the District of Columbia, author of Darlington's Personal Property, the standard text-book on that subject in the United States for several decades. The fountain is to cost \$6,000 and the persons interested desire the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in selecting a sculptor. The name of C. Paul Jennewein of #3 University Place, New York City, was suggested, being one of the youthful sculptors whose work is considered very good and is gaining prominence at the present time.

5. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: During a recent inspection trip at Arlington with Army officials special attention was given to the World War section. The Committee urged that the Office of the Quartermaster General take immediate steps toward drawing a plan so that this section may be developed, and in the course of time be as beautiful as other parts of Arlington. It was suggested that if necessary a grave be omitted here and there so as to permit the planting of trees, and that space be allowed for paths and roadways; also space for a large monument as a central motif. It was further recommended that the area in the vicinity of the Confederate Monument be improved through a suitable planting scheme; and that the Fort McPherson area be developed according to a landscape plan. The Committee recommended the planting of oak trees.

As for the headstone to be used for the World War graves the Committee definitely decided that the headstone designed by Mr. Charles A. Platt which has been accepted by the War Department be used for all World War graves wherever they may be located, whether in a World War section or here and there in national cemeteries throughout the country. It is believed this will always serve as a ready means of identification of a World War grave. The Office of the Quartermaster General has been advised accordingly concerning these matters. Tennessee marble is to be used for the headstone.

6. MEMORIAL TO SECOND DIVISION: Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Cass Gilbert,

Jr., was in Washington a few days ago and reported to him that it is the desire of the Second Division to erect a memorial in Washington to commemorate the services of that Division in the World War, which he says has been accorded highest place as a fighting Division by the War Department, having among its members particularly the Marines, who became famous during the World War. Mr. Gilbert reported that so far no funds had been gathered, nor has a memorial committee been appointed. Leaders of the Second Division interested in the memorial desire the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to a plan of procedure.

Mr. Moore said he suggested to Mr. Gilbert Rock Creek Parkway as a suitable site. Mr. Kendall reported that in the course of a conversation with Mr. Cass Gilbert, Sr., recently Mr. Gilbert suggested a flagpole in East Potomac Park. The Committee thought that a beautiful memorial flagpole in East Potomac Park would be very appropriate as a war memorial.

7. AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN FRANCE: It was reported that the Secretary of War had approved the recommendations that four members of the Commission of Fine Arts visit France, transportation and traveling expenses to be paid by the War Department. A cablegram has been sent to France asking for the topographic maps requested by the Commission and the War Department desires that the trip to France be made soon after the maps are received in Washington. The Commission is to be advised by Major Pierce of further developments at their next meeting.

8. GILDING LOWER DOME OF TOWER ON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SOLDIERS' HOME: Mr. Moore submitted a letter (Exhibit C) addressed to him by Alfred Granger, 619 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill., asking the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter of gilding the dome of the tower on the Administration Building of the Soldiers' Home.

The Committee gave the matter consideration and decided that the lower dome should not be gilded as it was thought such gilding would destroy the

architectural character of the tower and would have a most unfortunate result.
Mr. Granger was advised accordingly. (Exhibit D).

The Committee adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:

October 13, 1920.

Dear Mr. Niehaus:

With regard to the plan of the Francis Scott Key Memorial showing a revised layout of bench, walks and roadway submitted by you at their meeting on October 9, 1920, the Commission of Fine Arts has approved the plan with the following changes:

That the five foot grass plot between the walk and the road be omitted, and that the ten foot walk be moved to the road;

That the radius of curves on the roads to and from the Immigration Wharves be reduced to seven feet, and that on the proposed twenty-five foot road to the Fort the radius be shortened to eight feet;

That the Commission would be interested and expect to have presented to them a lighting scheme with plan for placing the lights and designs for the lamp posts;

That the hedge behind the seats is considered a vital element in the design. It is not shown on the plan. The Commission would like assurance that it is put in. The Commission agree to the use of the twelve foot seat.

Attention is called to the final paragraph in the letter addressed to you by Major Ridley of October 2 advising that you consult his office before starting work.

A copy of the blueprint and the permit which you desire are enclosed.

For and in the absence of the Secretary:

Very truly, yours,

(signed) H. P. Caemmerer,
Assistant to the Secretary.

Charles H. Niehaus, Esq.,
Eagle Crest Studio,
Grantwood, New Hersey.

HPC:FHC
Enclosures.

EXHIBIT A.

October 11, 1920.

Dear Major Ridley:

The attached revised design of the proposed tablet of the American Red Star Animal Relief Society to be erected in the State, War and Navy Building, was submitted to the members of the Commission at their meeting in New York City on October 9th, and they have approved the design with the suggestion that the moulding at the bottom and the general design of the tablet is such that it calls for support on the wall. They also desire to have a model of the tablet submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts at a future meeting.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major C. S. Ridley,
Corps of Engineers,
Superintendent,
State, War and Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

ROOSEVELT CLUB
Washington, D.C.

October 7, 1920.

My dear Mr. Moore:

Today at the Soldiers Home the question came up as to whether the lower dome on the tower to the administration building should be gilded. General Bliss seemed to want this done. I do not as it would cut the tower right in two and lower its apparent height. The small upper dome is to be gilded as on St. John's Church. I would greatly like the opinion of the Fine Arts Commission on this question. Can you spare the time to look into this and let me know your opinion? My address is 619 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Alfred Granger.

Hon. Charles Moore,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

T E L E G R A M.

October 11, 1920.

Alfred Granger,
619 North Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Commission of Fine Arts acknowledges reference of question as to advisability of gilding lower dome of the tower on the Administration Building of Soldiers Home. Commission advises that lower dome be not gilded. Commission believe that such gilding would destroy the architectural character of the tower and would have a most unfortunate result.

(signed) Charles Moore.

EXHIBIT D.

